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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

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Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

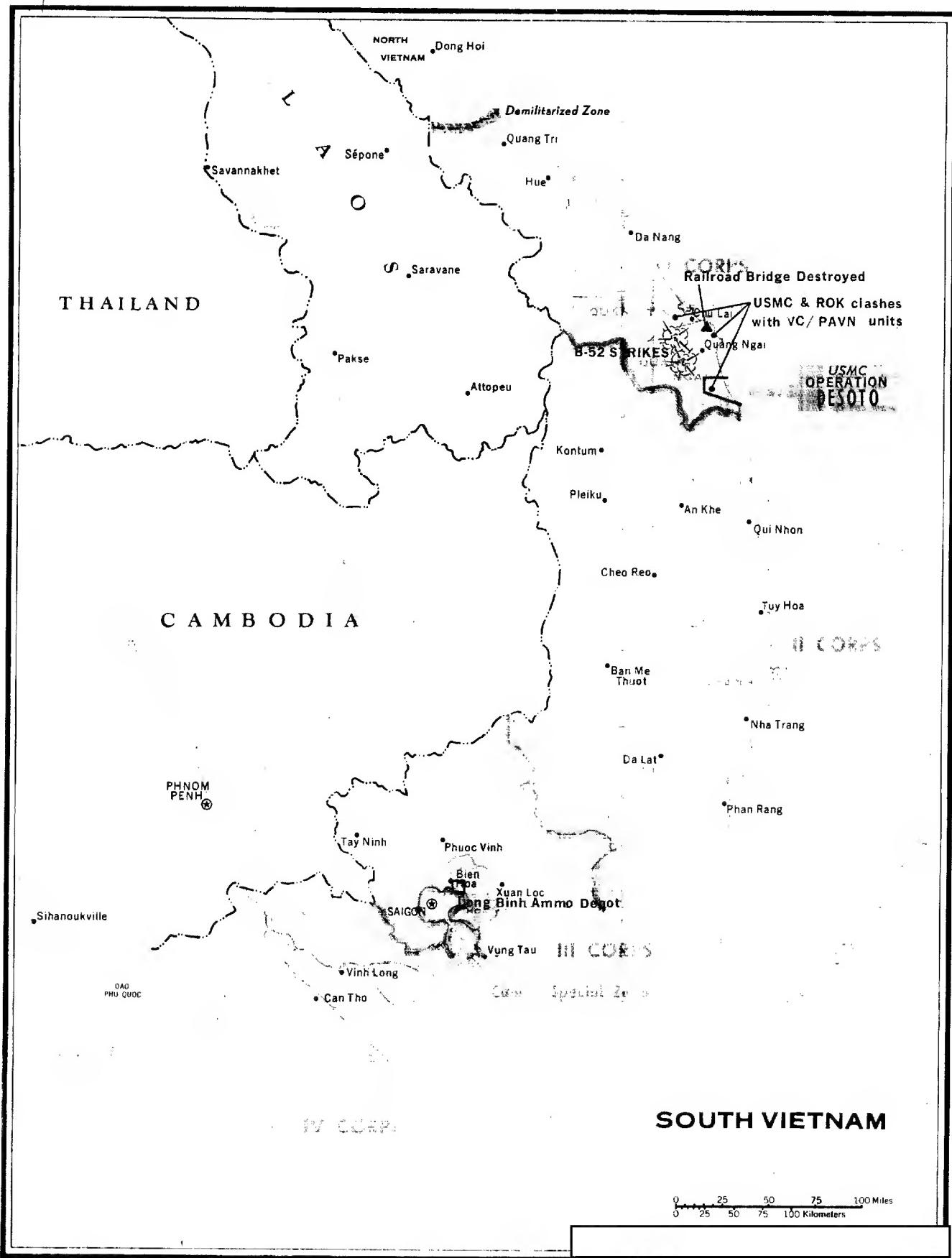
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Congo (Kinshasa) - Belgium: New UM offer

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The government and the Constituent Assembly have apparently reached a compromise on the powers of the legislature under the new constitution.

Tran Van An, a civilian member of the ruling Directorate, told US officials on 2 February that the Directorate and the assembly have agreed that the legislature will have authority to "recommend" to the president the dismissal of the prime minister or individual members of the cabinet, but will not be empowered to adopt a binding vote of no confidence against the government.

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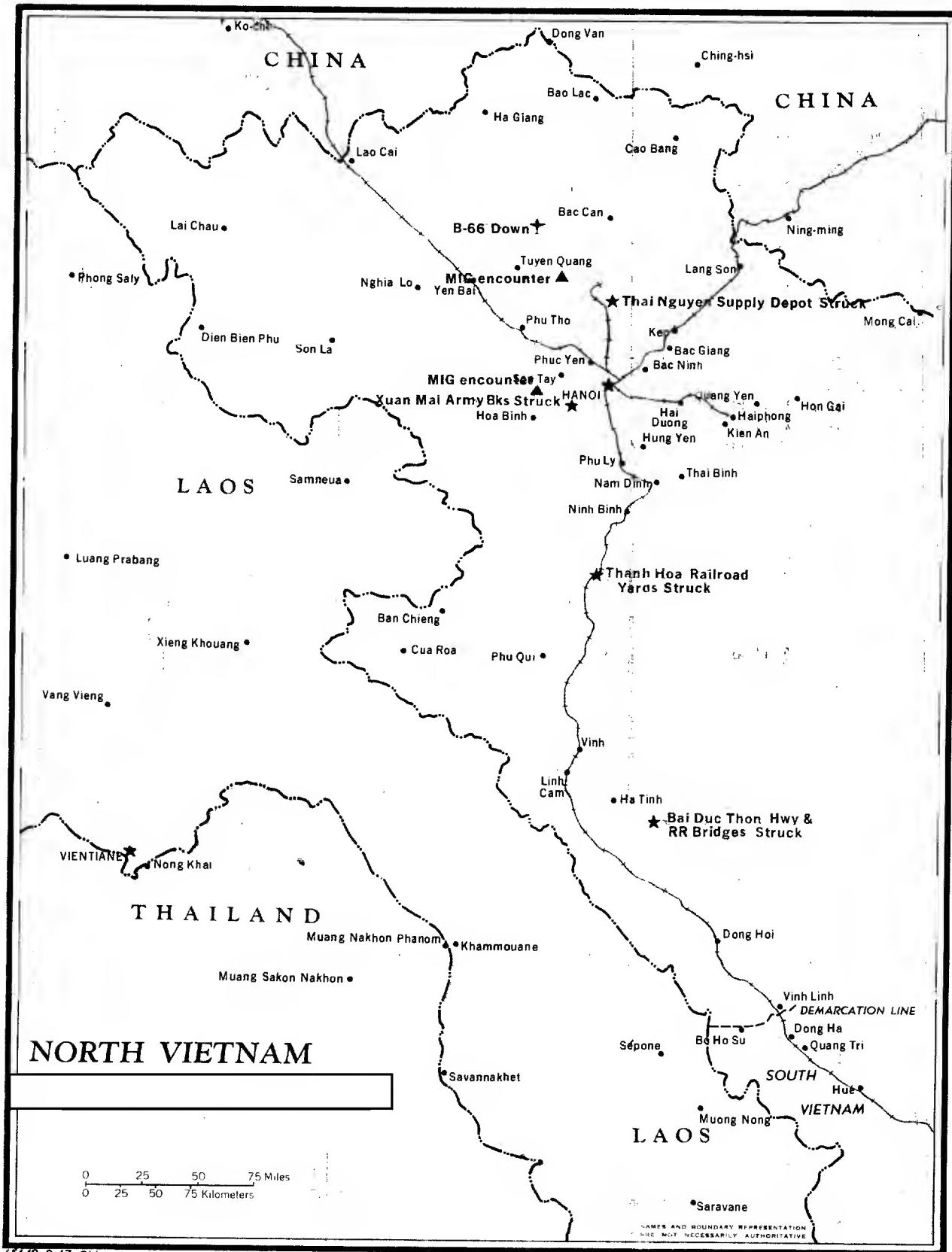
There is no indication, however, that this agreement covers such other controversial draft provisions as the legislature's power to declare emergencies and to influence the judiciary and the inspectorate. If these points of contention have also been settled, it is possible that assembly debate on this section may be completed before the Tet recess. [redacted] Directorate and Constituent Assembly representatives expect to begin discussion on the chapter dealing with the executive branch after the Tet holiday.

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The Military Situation in South Vietnam: No major ground engagements were reported in South Vietnam over the weekend, but VC/PAVN forces carried out several sabotage and small unit actions.

Viet Cong demolition squads destroyed a railroad bridge 12 miles north of Quang Ngai city on 4 February after overpowering the South Vietnamese guard force. US and Korean Marines reported several small-scale clashes with VC/PAVN units in which ten enemy and 12 allied troops were killed. About \$5 million in ordnance was lost in the sabotage attack on the Long Binh ammunition depot on 3 February. Losses could have been far greater, but the fire and explosions were confined to ten of the 225 ammunition storage pads at the base. (Map)

(continued)



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NAMES AND BOUNDARY REPRESENTATION
ARE NOT NECESSARILY AUTHORITATIVE

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North Vietnamese Military Developments: US planes encountered North Vietnamese MIGs on two occasions over the weekend as improved weather permitted a resumption of bombing attacks in the DRV. Numerous SA-2 missile firings resulted in the loss of a B-66 electronics warfare aircraft about 70 miles north of Hanoi.

No US planes were lost in encounters on 4 and 5 February with Communist fighters, despite the launching of air-to-air missiles in both engagements. The first encounter involved two MIG-17s attacking four F-105s after they had bombed the Thai Nguyen supply depot. In the second engagement, eight MIG-17s fought a prolonged battle with four F4Cs providing fighter cover for US planes attacking the Xuan Mai army barracks. No MIGs were encountered by US Navy aircraft as they struck the Thanh Hoa railroad yards and the rail and highway bridges at Bai Duc Thon.

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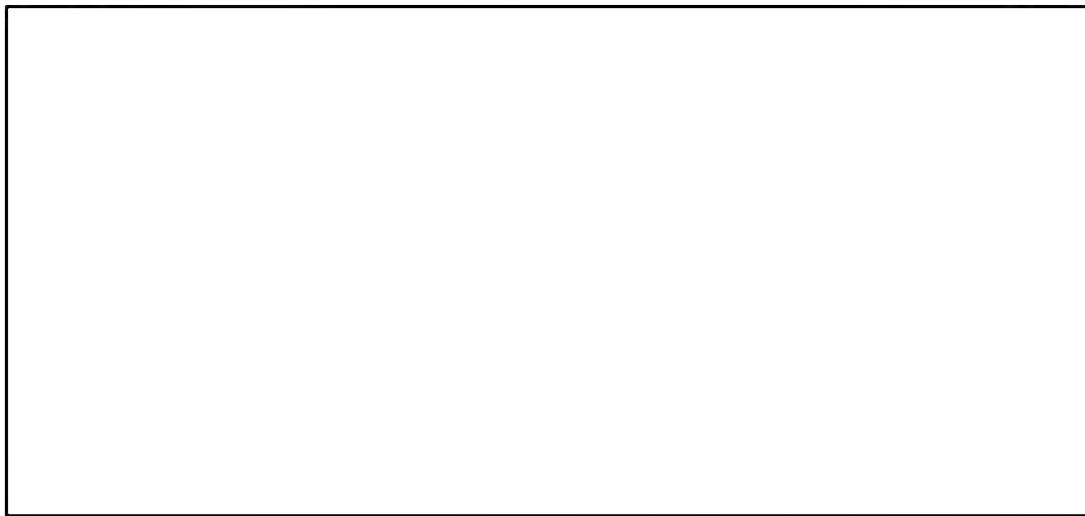
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NOTES



Congo (Kinshasa) - Belgium: A representative of a Belgian firm associated with Union Miniere is now in Kinshasa with a new proposal for an international "association" to mine and market the Congo's copper under contract. The "association" apparently could include other major mining concerns, but Union Miniere, whose personnel would almost certainly continue to be essential to mining operations, would probably predominate. President Mobutu, who still seems unaware of Union Miniere's hold over the Congo's economy, seems likely to reject these proposals as he did earlier. somewhat less onerous terms.

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